

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A medical image management system comprising:

a ~~mobile-portable~~ image data reception device, which is connectable to medical image data storage means installed in a medical facility, having a function of receiving medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage means from the medical image data storage means and a function of storing the medical image data sets; and

an image data storage apparatus, which is connectable to the ~~mobile-portable~~ image data reception device, having a function of receiving the medical image data sets transmitted from the ~~mobile-portable~~ image data reception device and function of storing the image data sets, wherein the image data storage apparatus comprises storage period management means for managing a storage period of each of the medical image data sets stored therein.
2. (currently amended): A medical image management system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the ~~mobile-portable~~ image data reception device further has a function of transmitting a reception completion signal to the medical image data storage means at the time of reception completion of the medical image data sets.
3. (currently amended): The ~~mobile-portable~~ image data reception device used in the medical image management system of Claim 1, the mobile image data storage device being connectable to the medical image data storage means installed in the medical facility, and having the function of receiving the medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage

means and the function of storing the medical image data sets.

4. (currently amended): The image data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of Claim 1, the image data storage apparatus being connectable to the ~~mobile~~ portable image data reception device, and having the function of receiving the medical image data sets transmitted from the ~~mobile~~ portable image data reception device and the function of storing the medical image data sets, and comprising the storage period management means for managing the storage period of each of the medical image data sets that have been stored.

5. (currently amended): A medical image management system comprising medical image data storage means installed in a medical facility for storing medical image data sets and for enabling transmission of the medical image data sets, and an image data storage apparatus for enabling reception of the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means and for storing the medical image data sets, wherein

the image data storage apparatus comprises storage period management means for managing a fixed storage period of each of the medical image data sets stored therein.

6. (currently amended): ~~A medical image management system as defined in Claim 5,~~
~~wherein,~~ A medical image management system comprising medical image data storage means installed in a medical facility for storing medical image data sets and for enabling transmission of the medical image data sets, and an image data storage apparatus for enabling reception of the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means and for storing the medical image data sets, wherein

the image data storage apparatus comprises storage period management means for

managing a storage period of each of the medical image data sets stored therein and

the image data storage apparatus comprises means for regularly measuring a total amount of the medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage means, for calculating a difference between a capacity of the medical image data storage means and the total amount of the medical image data sets, and for receiving the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means when the difference becomes smaller than a predetermined value.

7. (Original): A medical image management system as defined in Claim 5, wherein the medical image data storage means has a function of transmitting a reception request signal for requesting reception of the medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage means, and the image data storage apparatus has a function of receiving the reception request signal.

8. (Original): A medical image management system as defined in Claim 7, the medical image data storage means regularly measuring a total amount of the medical image data sets stored therein and calculating a difference between a capacity of the medical image data storage means and the total amount of the medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage means, and transmitting the reception request signal to the image data storage apparatus when the difference becomes smaller than a predetermined value.

9. (Original): A medical image management system as defined in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein the image data storage apparatus further has a function of transmitting a storage completion signal to the medical image data storage means at the time of storing the medical image data sets.

10. (Original): A medical image management system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the

image data storage apparatus further comprises output means for outputting a desired one of the medical image data sets stored therein according to a predetermined output condition input thereto.

11. (Original): The medical image data storage means used in the medical image management system defined in Claim 5, the medical image data storage apparatus storing the medical image data sets, and enabling transmission of the medical image data sets to the image data storage apparatus.

12. (Original): The image data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of Claim 5, the image data storage apparatus receiving the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means and storing the image data sets therein, and comprising storage period management means for managing the storage period of each of the medical image data sets.

13. (Original): The image data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of Claim 5, the image data storage apparatus comprising output means for outputting a desired one of the medical image data sets stored therein according to a predetermined output condition input thereto.

14. (Original): A medical image management method comprising the steps of:
storing medical image data sets in storage means installed in a medical facility;
receiving and storing the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means by using an image data storage apparatus installed outside the medical facility; and
managing a storage period of each of the medical image data sets that have been stored.

15. (currently amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to

cause a computer installed in the ~~mobile~~-portable image data reception device used in the medical image management system of Claim 1 to execute the procedures of:

receiving the medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage means installed in the medical facility from the medical image data storage means and storing the image data sets; and

transmitting the medical image data sets that have been received and stored to the image data storage apparatus.

16. (Original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer in the image data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of Claim 5 to execute the procedures of:

receiving the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means; and
managing the storage period of each of the medical image data sets that have been stored.

17. (Original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer in the image data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of Claim 6 to execute the procedures of:

regularly measuring the total amount of the medical image data sets stored in the medical image data storage means;

calculating the difference between the capacity of the medical image data storage means and the total amount of the medical image data sets; and

receiving the medical image data sets from the medical image data storage means when the difference becomes smaller than the predetermined value.

18. (currently amended): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 1, wherein the image data storage apparatus determines a fixed storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets stored in the image data storage apparatus.

19. (previously presented): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 18, wherein the image data storage apparatus determines the storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets by using the storage period of the medical image data set and at least one of a date of reception of the medical image data set and a date of photographing of the medical image data set.

20. (previously presented): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 18, wherein the image data storage apparatus determines the storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets according to at least one of a type of the medical image data set and accompanying information of the medical image data set

21. (currently amended): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 5, wherein the image data storage apparatus determines a fixed storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets stored in the image data storage apparatus.

22. (previously presented): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 21, wherein the image data storage apparatus determines the storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets by using the storage period of the medical image data set and at least one of a date of reception of the medical image data set and a date of photographing of the medical image data set.

23. (currently amended): The medical image management method of claim 14, wherein the operation of managing the storage period comprises:

determining a fixed storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets.

24. (previously presented): The medical image management method of claim 23, wherein the storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets is determined by using the storage period of the medical image data set.

25. (previously presented): The medical image management method of claim 23, wherein the storage expiration date of each of the medical image data sets is determined by at least one of a type of the medical image data set and accompanying information of the medical image data set.

26. (previously presented): The medical image management method of claim 23 further comprising disposing each of the medical image data sets according to the storage expiration date of respective medical image data set in a predetermined manner.

27. (previously presented): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 1, wherein the medical image data sets are medical images of patients.

28. (previously presented): The medical data storage apparatus used in the medical image management system of claim 1, wherein each of the medical image data sets are one of X-ray images, CT images, and MR images.

29. (new): The medical image management system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the storage period is fixed.